

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7206

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 2211

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO VORSTER

REFS: A. STATE 253550; B. PRETORIA 4975

FROM EASUM

1. I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED PARALLEL APPROACH. I HAD EXPECTED FOLLOW PRECISELY THESE LINES IN MY MEETING NOVEMBER 15 WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER BUT WAS OBLIGED OPERATE SOMEWHAT UNDER WRAPS IN ABSENCE DEPARTMENTS'S AUTHORIZATION. NONETHELESS, AS INDICATED PRETORIA'S 4970 AND MY MORE DETAILED FOLLOW-UP TELEGRAM SENT NOVEMBER 18 FROM DURBAN, I BELIEVE VORSTER WAS LEFT IN NO DOUBT CONCERNING U.S. ATTITUDES AND THOSE OF MANY AFRICAN LEADERS WITH WHOM I HAVE MET IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. AS INDICATED PRETORIA'S 4970, HOWEVER, I QUESTION WISDOM OF PARALLEL APPROACH RIGHT NOW. MY QUESTION CONCERNS TACTICS AND TIMING. HOW MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IS A U.K./FRENCH APPROACH
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IF JOINED BY U.S. NOW, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW MY RECENT MEETING WITH

VORSTER AND HEAVY PREIS COVERAGE THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA OF MY VISIT? VORSTER CURRENTLY BELEAGUERED FROM MANY QUARTERS. HIS AND BOTHA'S SPEECHES HAVE OPENED PANDORA'S BOX OF ANTICIPTION. HE KNOWS THIS. IF WE HOLD BACK OUR FURTHER FIRE FOR TIME-BEING, IT SHOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF WE WISH TO USE IT LATER, AND I BELIEVE WE WILL.

3. I WOULD SUGGEST (A) THAT WE URGE BRITISH AND FRENCH TO PROCEED WITH THEIR OWN APPROACHES, (B) THAT WE AUTHORIZE THEM TO STATE THEY MAKE THESE APPROACHES AFTER CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT WITH U.S. AND WITH OUR FULL SUPPORT, (C) THAT WE TELL THEM WE FULLY INTEND TO KEEP THE PRUESSURE ON AND MAY WELL JOIN THEM IN FUTURE APPROACHES, OR ASK THEM JOIN US, AND (D) THAT WE IMMEDIATELY PASS THEM SUBSTANCE OF MY TALKS WITH VORSTER.
BOLEN

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